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# DETERMINED

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*“The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a person’s determination.”*

~ **Tommy Lasorda**

*“I believe that success is achieved by ordinary people with extraordinary determination.”*

~ **Zig Ziglar**

*“If you set goals and go after them with all the determination you can muster, your gifts will take you places that will amaze you.”*

~ **Les Brown**

*“When the will is ready the feet are light.”*

~ **Ancient Proverb**

*“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.”*

~ **Colin Powell**

How many “NO’s” does it take for us to stop believing in ourselves? When people tell us we can’t, how fast do we give up on ourselves? Do we listen to the haters? Even worse, do we believe the haters?

Walt Disney was a man who believed in himself and his dreams. Think of how popular he is today and how much success the Walt Disney Company has achieved. It wasn’t always Mickey ears and Disney princesses for Walt. While working at a newspaper, the young cartoonist was told he lacked creativity. Imagine that. Walt Disney, the creator of all things childlike, magical, and fantastic was told

he didn't have the right stuff. He would then go on to form Laugh-O-Gram Films ... which eventually failed. He was still determined. Though he was essentially broke, Walt decided that he would use the last of his money to go to Hollywood determined to make his dreams come true.

He was told that Mickey Mouse would scare women and wouldn't be a success. That didn't stop him from creating a phenomenon anyway. Some of his famous films like Pinocchio were shut down during production; Bambi and Fantasia were misunderstood. He was still determined to make his dream become a reality. He pursued the author of Mary Poppins for 16 years before she allowed him to create it into a movie.

Walt Disney did not believe in taking no for an answer. That word simply was not in his vocabulary. He believed in what he loved to do, he believed in his abilities, and he was determined to see it through. He is famous for saying, "you may not realize when it happens, but a kick in the teeth may be the best thing in the world for you". Every kick in the teeth he got just built up his resilience even more.

Michael Jordan, arguably the greatest basketball player of all time, was not selected for his high school varsity basketball team as a sophomore. This was an early episode that served as motivation. Here are some of his quotes that speak to the hall of fame mentality that made him determined to be the best ever . . . 1

"I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying."

"I've always believed that if you put in the work, the results will come."

"I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."

"My attitude is that if you push me towards something that you think is a weakness, then I will turn that perceived weakness into a strength."

"If you're trying to achieve, there will be roadblocks. I've had them; everybody has had them. But obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it."

"I play to win, whether during practice or a real game. And I will not let anything get in the way of me and my competitive enthusiasm to win."

A great example of how determined Jordan was concerned his playing style. When Jordan entered the NBA, he was known as just a great athlete and scorer. Defenses were backing off of him and daring him to shoot jumpers. During his first five years in the league, he only made 58 total three-pointers, while shooting a terrible 20.2%. His Chicago Bulls were falling short in the playoffs and not winning as

much as their talent suggested. Jordan decided to do something about it and work on his weakness.

In his sixth year he shot 37.6% and made a total of 92 three-pointers in that season, which was way more than in his previous five seasons combined. He also led the Bulls to the conference championship game during that sixth year and then the NBA Championship the next year. Many players have been prolific scorers and dunkers, but few have been deadly from any area on the court. He listened to his coaches and eventually became arguably the greatest player in NBA history. He finished his career with 6 World Championships, 5 League MVP awards, 10 scoring titles, and 14 all-star selections.

Do we remember that person that gave up? Neither does anyone else. Every success story reveals a person that was determined to chase and accomplish a dream. Be relentless and determined when chasing your dreams.